



FIRE RATED CORRIDOR UNDER THE 2007 MSBC INFORMATIONAL HANDOUT

Construction Code Services Division
Informational Bulletin
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1. Consult table 1017.1 in the 2006 IBC: determine if your corridor is required to be rated. The IBC has made changes over the years to make it easier for corridor to be unrated, especially if the building has a sprinkler system throughout. The common A, B, E, F, M, S, and U occupancies in sprinkled buildings are not required to have rated corridors.

2. Check the occupant load served by the corridor: Table 1017.1 allows corridors in R occupancies serving 10 or fewer occupants or in the A, B, E, F, M, S, and U occupancies mentioned above serving 30 or fewer occupants to be unrated.

3. For rated corridors: Walls are to be “fire partitions” complying with section 708. A Fire Partition is: “A vertical assembly of material designed to restrict the spread of fire in which openings are protected.” They are to be not less than 1 hour rated unless exempt per table 1017.1.

A) Openings are protected per section 715 with the normal rating being 20 minutes (1/3 hr). Section 715.4.3.1 requires fire doors be tested per UL 1784 and installed per NFPA 105 and shall carry a “S” label per 715.4.5.3.

B) Penetrations must comply with section 712 and ducts per 716 with some exceptions below.

C) Joints must comply with section 713

D) Ducts and air transfer openings shall comply with section 716. If the building is sprinkled and not an H occupancy section 716.5.4 except.1. allows corridors to not have a fire damper but still requires the penetration be protected as a through penetration per 712. A smoke damper is not required for ducts constructed of steel not less than 0.019 inch thickness (26 gauge galvanized) where there are no openings serving the corridor.

The above provisions are not intended to be used for design purposes but are intended to give the user some general guidance for requirements of fire rated corridors. Note: Alterations to existing corridors may trigger requirements for upgrades to existing openings in specific cases. Also refer to the elevator lobby informational handout for those additional requirements and exceptions.